



data zone candidates are prepared, and at least one of the data zone candidates is selected from the plurality of data zone candidates, thereby determining said at least one zone.

3. An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said zone determining step, said at least one zone is determined randomly.

4. An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said zone determining step, said at least one zone is determined so that a total playback time or a total recording time of the fourth data string in said at least one zone is within a predetermined period of time.

5. An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said first generating step, the third data string including information indicating a playback start position or a recording start position of the fourth data string defined by said at least one zone is generated.

6. An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said first generating step, the third data string including information indicating a playback data zone or a recording data zone of the fourth data string defined by said at least one zone is generated.

10. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, in said replacement step, the first data contained in the first data string is replaced by the second data so that the playback quality of the second data string becomes lower than the playback quality of the first data string.

11. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein the second data is data in which at least part of the first data is replaced by random data.

12. An information processing method according to claim 9, further comprising a coding step of coding input data, wherein, in said replacement step, the first data contained in the first data string is replaced by the second data by using the data coded in said coding step as the first data string.

13. An information processing method according to claim 12, wherein the first data contains normalizing-coefficient information used for coding processing in said coding step.

14. An information processing method according to